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Jonathan A. Hyman  
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Joseph J. Mallon, Ph.D.  
Thomas P. Krzaminaki

## Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP

### Intellectual Property Law

550 West C Street  
Suite 1200  
San Diego CA 92101  
Tel 619-235-8550  
Fax 619-235-0176  
kmoeb.com

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OUR REFERENCE NO.: CDLIT.001A

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FROM: Eric M. Nelson Reg. No.: 43,829

Application No.: 09/309,366

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C. Philip Polrier  
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Of Counsel  
Louis J. Knobbe\*  
Jerry R. Sellar

Japanese Patent Atty  
Katsuhiko Arai  
Tomohisa Sugiyama

Korean Patent Atty  
Mincheol Kim  
Houngsoo Choi

Scientists & Engineers  
(Non-Lawyers)

Reimond J. Saloniaka\*\*  
Khurram Rahman, Ph.D.  
Jennifer Haynes, Ph.D.\*\*  
Che S. Chareekin, Ph.D.\*\*  
James W. Ausley\*\*  
Connie C. Tong, Ph.D.\*\*  
Suzanne Jepson, Ph.D.\*\*  
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Marina L. Gorday, Ph.D.\*\*  
Lang J. McHardy\*\*  
Karen J. Lenker  
Eric B. Ives, Ph.D.\*\*  
Raymond D. Smith, Ph.D.

\* A Professional Corporation  
† Also Sanctioned At Law (Long & Winters)  
\*\* U.S. Patent Agent  
†† Also Solicitor (Long & Winters)

2040 Main Street  
14th Floor  
Irvine, CA 92614  
Tel 949-760-4404

201 California Street  
Suite 1150  
San Francisco CA 94111  
Tel 415-394-4114  
Fax 415-394-4444

1901 Avenue of the Stars  
Suite 1500  
Los Angeles CA 90087  
Tel 310-551-3450  
Fax 310-551-3458

3403 Tenth Street  
Suite 700  
Riverside CA 92501  
Tel 951-781-9231  
Fax 951-781-4507

1114 Marsh Street  
San Luis Obispo CA 93401  
Tel 805-547-5580  
Fax 805-547-5390

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TO: Examiner Samuel Rimell  
Fax No. (703) 746-3227

FROM: Eric M. Nelson  
Reg. No. 43,829

RE: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING OBSERVATIONAL INFORMATION  
ITEMS  
Application No.. 09/309,366  
Filed: May 11, 1999  
Our Reference No.: CDLIT.001A

DATE: August 3, 2004

I would like to discuss with you the following proposed claims amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of organizing information in a computer, comprising:
  - assigning a bar code to a floor plan schematic of a building;
  - providing an item of observational information that is related to a construction defect of the building, wherein the defect is classified into one of a plurality of defect types;
  - assigning an identification code to the item of observational information;
  - annotating the floor plan schematic with the identification code;
  - scanning the floor plan schematic thereby creating a digital representation of the floor plan schematic;
  - associating in a table in the computer the bar code to the identification code; and
  - displaying, in response to a user request, the digital representation of the floor plan schematic annotated with the identification code and the item of

observational information, wherein the defect type and the identification code are displayed.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising assigning a defect code to the item of observational information.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the item of observational information includes a textual description of the physical defect.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the item of observational information includes a photograph.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the a number identification code is located on the floor plan schematic.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein associating in the computer the bar code to the identification code includes storing the bar code and the identification code in a relational database.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A program storage device storing instructions that when executed perform the method comprising:

assigning an object identifier to a graphical representation of a building, wherein the object identifier uniquely identifies a document;

receiving a request for the display of an observational information item relating to ~~a physical object~~ the building, wherein the observational information item includes construction defect information regarding the building;

assigning an identification code to the observational information item, wherein the identification code corresponds with one of a plurality of defect types;

scanning a floor plan schematic of the building thereby creating a digital representation of the floor plan schematic;

associating, in a table in the computer, the object identifier to the observational information item; and

displaying the observational information item, the digital representation of the floor plan schematic, and the identification code; and

displaying an annotated graphical representation of the building that describes the view associated with the observational information item.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of assigning responsibility for ~~construction~~ structural defects, including:

associating a plurality of subcontractor identifiers to a plurality of subcontractors;

associating a plurality of trade identifiers to the subcontractor identifiers;

assigning a trade percentage to one of the trade identifiers, the trade percentage identifying a cost to repair a structural defect for the trade identified by the trade identifier, the subcontractor being liable for the assigned percentage of the cost; and

generating a report that describes a subcontractor percentage of responsibility of a subcontractor for a structural defect based upon the trade identifiers and the subcontractor percentage.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of organizing information in a computer, comprising:

assigning an object identifier to a graphical representation of a building, wherein the object identifier uniquely identifies a document;

providing at least one item of observational information that describes a characteristic of the physical object, wherein the observational information includes location information for the building, and wherein the observational information includes defect information regarding the building;

assigning at least one observational identifier to the item of observational information, wherein the observational identifier corresponds with one of a plurality of defect types; and

scanning the graphical representation of the building thereby creating a digital representation of the graphical representation;

associating, in a table in the computer the object identifier to the observational identifier; and

displaying the scanned graphical representation of the building.

22. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21, additionally comprising:

selecting one of the items of observational information; and

displaying the graphical representation of the building.

23. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21, additionally comprising:

selecting one of the items of observational information; and

displaying the selected item of observational information.

24. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21, additionally comprising assigning a defect code to the item of observational information.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the object identifier is a bar code number.

27. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the graphical representation is a floor plan schematic.

28. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the item of observational information includes a textual description of a construction defect.

29. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the item of observational information includes a photograph.

30. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the observational identifier is a number.

31. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein associating, in the computer, the object identifier to the observational identifier includes storing the object identifier and the observational identifier in a relational database.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of organizing information in a computer, comprising:

assigning a bar code to a graphical representation of a product;

providing an item of observational information that is related to the product;

assigning an identification code to the item of observational information, wherein

the identification code is classified into one of a plurality of defect types;

annotating the graphical representation with the identification code;

scanning the graphical representation thereby creating a digital representation of the graphical representation;

associating in a table in the computer the bar code to the identification code; and

displaying, in response to a user request, the digital graphical representation annotated with the identification code and the item of observational information.

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